

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00194 031555Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W

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O 031415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6632

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0194

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, CT

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA

1. UNIDENTIFIED AFRICAN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT BOKASSA AT APPROXIMATELY 1125 LOCAL HOURS, FEBRUARY 3 AS PRESIDENT WAS ABOUT TO BOARD PRESIDENTIAL CARAVELLE AT BANGUI-M'POKO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR HIS HUNTING LODGE AT N'DELE IN NORTHERN CAR. AT THIS TIME ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IS NOT YET GENERALLY KNOWN IN BANGUI AND NEITHER HARD NOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION IS LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING IMMEDIATELY.

2. EMBASSY SOURCE WHO IS CLOSE EMBASSY FRIEND/CONTACT AND WAS EYEWITNESS OF EVENT, REPORTS THAT ASSASSIN FIRED AT LEAST ONE SHOT FROM NEAR AIRPORT, THEN SOUGHT REFUGE IN ADJACENT AIR AFRIQUE AIRFREIGHT AND CUSTOMS BUILDING WHERE EYEWITNESS HAPPENED TO BE. PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY FORCE IMMEDIATELY OPEN FIRED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND PISTOLS AND IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT ASSASSIN WAS KILLED.

3. PRESIDENT POSTPONED N'DELE TRIP AND HAS CONVOKED CABINET, MILITARY COMMANDERS AND PALACE GUARD TO PRESIDENTIAL CHAMBERS WHERE MEETING IS TAKING PLACE AT PRESENT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON IDENTIFY OF ASSASSIN, HIS MOTIVATION AND WHETHER THIS WAS AN ORGANIZED AFFAIR OR AN ISOLATED INCIDENT,
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PAGE 02 BANGUI 00194 031555Z

WHICH IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE.

5. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER AND HOW GOCAR WILL PLAY THIS
DRAMATIC OCCURRENCE IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY TERMS.
EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ABREAST OF SITUATION AS
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED.
SWING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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